

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 15, 2016

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Andrew Andree, Stephen Jordan, Gary Fritts and Paul Norwine. Also present was Kimberly K. Grow, Jasper County Auditor and Tina Porter, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. DeVries.

MINUTES: Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from the October 18, 2016 meeting. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

JUDGE AHLER / ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: Judge Ahler was present to request additional appropriations. The first request was for Court Reporter Number One in the amount of \$1,220.00. He stated that, when he submitted his budget request, he only requested enough money for a part-time position. That position has since been approved as a full-time position. He also requested \$3,262.50 for Court Reporter Number Two. This amount is less than his initial letter request due to the fact that he thought the person's employment would have started sooner. There was some discussion on his new hires and he stated that he is very pleased with the outcome. Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve the additional request in the amount of \$1,220.00. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Ordinance Number 2016-11A** Mr. Norwine made the motion to approve the additional request in the amount of \$3,263.00. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Ordinance Number 2016-11B**

Judge Ahler also informed the Council that there is \$11,337.96 remaining in the account used to pay translators for trials. He has another case that he believes will be going to trial in the spring that will need a translator and he may have to come back and ask for more money in December to fund that.

SHERIFF RISNER / ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: Sheriff Risner was present to request additional appropriations. The first request was for Part-time Courthouse Security in the amount of \$7,800.00. He stated that this request is due to a few factors. Additional security is requested for the week-end of the Little Cousin Jasper festival. They try to work out a compromise where Little Cousin Jasper pays for the County Officer that works Saturday. Friday and Sunday are paid out of the Sheriff's budget. The festival has insufficient funds, but without security, there is a risk that the Courthouse could be vandalized, which has happened in the past. Mr. Bontreger asked if we can ask Kevin Kelly in Tourism to do a line item in his budget for festival security, which will not only help with Little Cousin Jasper, but other festivals throughout the County. Auditor Grow replied that we can ask. Sheriff Risner stated that another factor is that the County had several days of extended voting hours and the ladies working requested security. Also, he said he had two Courthouse Security employees leave for other positions, which in turn caused the other employees to work extra hours. The new hires had to go through paid training before they could begin work. If a trial goes beyond 4:00, the Court Security employee has to stay until it's over. Courthouse Security also helps with transports. He provided an update on transport stats as of October 31, 2016. There were 131 jail transports that totaled 12,459 miles and 63 medical transports that totaled 4,201 miles. There have been six inmates hospitalized since January 1st that had to be guarded twenty four hours a day. Only one of the six was admitted to Franciscan. The others were admitted to out of county hospitals. There were 27 EDO transports. Each transport can take approximately three hours to complete. There were 66 juvenile transports that totaled 6,904 miles. Sometimes these transports require the Officer going to Muncie. There were 418 court transports that totaled 12,484 miles. The grand total is 678 transports that totaled 36,048 miles. The second request was for Jail Utilities in the amount of \$18,000.00. He stated that this would be enough to last the rest of the year. The utilities include sewage, water, electric and natural gas, as well as the fee from the City for the two fire hydrants. The bills were running approximately \$20,000 to \$23,000 prior to the work being done to correct the issues they were having. The bills are now closer to \$16,500 so there has been a noticeable decrease over the past seven months. They are averaging approximately eighty inmates. When the budget request for 2016 was done, it was unknown at the time how much the utilities would be. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve the additional request for Part-time Courthouse Security in the amount of \$7,800. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Ordinance Number 2016-11C**

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SHERIFF RISNER / ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS CONT'D: Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the additional request for Jail Utilities in the amount of \$18,000. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Ordinance Number 2016-11D**

SHERIFF RISNER / JAIL INSPECTION REPORT: Sheriff Risner brought the Council a copy of the jail inspection that was done on October 13, 2016. It covers approximately two-hundred and twenty five areas that are inspected by the State Jail Inspector. The inspection went very good, although they are always listed "no" on proper staffing. There was notation however that the Council and Commissioners are working with the Sheriff to address staffing concerns. Sheriff Risner foresees the jail population staying on the high side due to the requirement that they have to hold the sentenced people per the new State Legislation mandate. Sargent Santiago has been wired in to the billing system where they are allowed to bill the State for holding those prisoners. They are allowed to request reimbursement of \$35.00 per day although it costs the County approximately \$54.00 to \$56.00 per day to maintain each inmate. They are expecting to receive a reimbursement of \$15,100, which will go in to the General Fund.

SHERIFF RISNER / RECOVERY WORKS / TEEN CHALLENGE: Mr. Bontreger asked Sheriff Risner if he'd like to comment on the Recovery Works / Teen Challenge initiative. Sheriff Risner stated that Chief Deputy Williamson is leading it. Teen Challenge is based in Elkhart and has shown a very good success rate with opiate addiction. Teen Challenge will be doing a lecture at Kankakee Valley School, bringing in recovering opiate addicts to talk to the children. He said he knows that Teen Challenge has waived entry fees for people. They are also trying to implement the Vivatrol program by getting it set up through probation and the courts. Therapy is also needed with treatment. The Vivatrol shots are approximately just under \$1,000 and last for thirty days. A person undergoing treatment would need six to nine shots. Sheriff Risner believes that the Vivatrol program would help put a dent in the drug problem. Recovery Works, which is along the same lines as Teen Challenge, is taking ten "test" counties throughout the State. They would be combining Vivatrol with therapy sessions and will help the person get reintegrated in to society. Mr. Bontreger commended Sheriff Risner and Chief Williamson for recognizing there's a problem and exploring and implementing a program that can assist those that are able to be helped. Sheriff Risner replied that, for the program to work, it can't be governmental and Teen Challenge is not a government program.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / DAWN HOFFMAN: Auditor Grow stated that this is to correct Dawn's salary. She was shorted \$1,000.00 during the budget process. Elected officials salaries cannot be changed after the first of the year. Mr. Norwine made the motion to approve the salary correction of \$1,000.00. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Ordinance Number 2016-11E**

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / DRAINAGE BOARD: Auditor Grow presented a letter from the Drainage Board for an additional appropriation for Board Compensation in the amount of \$140.00. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the additional request for Board Compensation in the amount of \$140.00. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Ordinance Number 2016-11F**

TRANSFER / PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Auditor Grow presented a transfer request from the Prosecuting Attorney to Deposition and Transcripts from Office Supplies in the amount of \$200.00. Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the transfer. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Auditor Grow presented a transfer request to Bond from Utilities in the amount of \$16.00. Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Auditor Grow presented a transfer request to Travel from Utilities in the amount of \$50.00. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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TRANSFER / SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Auditor Grow presented a transfer request to Travel from Office Supplies in the amount \$250.00. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Auditor Grow presented a transfer request to Travel from Education in the amount of \$250.00. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / SOLID WASTE / COUNTY GENERAL: Auditor Grow presented a transfer request to Mowing of County Owned Property / Other Services and Charges from Capital Outlays in the amount of \$5,000.00. This is for mowing of the Fairgrounds. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / SOLID WASTE / COUNTY GENERAL: Auditor Grow presented a transfer request to Exam of Records / Other Services and Charges from Capital Outlays in the amount of \$25,000.00. This is to pay the State Board of Accounts for the annual audit. The daily rate that they charge has tripled. There were three employees here from SBOA for approximately one month auditing records from 2014. Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the transfer. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried.

REMINGTON CARPENTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT: Auditor Grow presented a letter from the Remington Carpenter Township Public Library Director Sue Waibel that Mr. Bontreger read aloud. The letter stated that Nancy Arnold was nominated by the County Council to a four year term that ends on December 31, 2016. She is willing to serve another four year term and they are asking the Council to nominate her. Mr. Norwine made the motion to appoint Nancy Arnold to the Remington Carpenter Township Library Board for a four-year term. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2017 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE: Auditor Grow presented the proposed 2017 Council meeting schedule. There was some discussion on the dates presented. Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve the following dates. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Tuesday, January 17
Tuesday, February 21
Tuesday, March 21
Tuesday, April 18
Tuesday, May 16
Tuesday, June 20
Tuesday, July 11
Tuesday, August 15
Tuesday, September 19
Tuesday, October 24
Tuesday, November 21
Tuesday, December 19**

PRIOR APPROVED MINTUES: Auditor Grow presented Mr. Bontreger with prior approved minutes to sign for the books.

DEL CLEEK / ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD: Mr. Jordan stated that he's done some follow-up in regards to the email received from Del Cleek on the Animal Control Board in regards to the budget. He said he met with her last week and it went well. He said that Animal Control was given what they had the year before and should be able to get by with that. There were no cuts made. The part-time week-end position was increased from \$4,000.00 to \$7,300.00. The other part-time was increased the same amount as everyone else. He believes the Council made an error on the Director's salary. They gave him a raise based on what he's currently making. Because, there was a salary ordinance done correcting his salary, the amount of the raise would actually be giving him a pay cut. Auditor Grow stated that we will be doing an additional appropriation in January to bring his salary to where it should be.

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DEL CREEK / ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD CONT'D: Mr. Jordan stated that he would like to make a request that they receive reports on a quarterly basis or every six months that show the amount of animals they're handling. Mr. Bontreger stated that it would help the Council understand their need. Mr. Jordan stated that he mentioned it to Del, but would like Auditor Grow to request it. She replied that she will talk to Mark Sinclair. There was some discussion regarding Animal Control transferring money to pay for the part-time position during this year. Auditor Grow stated that she talked with Del also and that Del was satisfied with the resolution.

ADDITIONALS / TRANSFERS: Mr. DeVries stated that, in the past, the Council used to receive a summary sheet listing the additional and transfers prior to the meeting. He stated that he would like to see that again. Auditor Grow replied that Mrs. Porter will take care of that.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS / AUDIT: Auditor Grow stated that the SBOA is finished with the 2014 audit and the preliminary response that she got from them was that everything looked great. The exit conference will be held on November 21, 2016.

JAIL REFINANCE: Auditor Grow stated that the conference call with Standard and Poor went well. Mr. Bontreger stated that the County's credit rating is AA+.

PROPERTY TAX REPORT: Mr. Fritts brought a copy of the Jasper County Property Tax Report on Property Changes Between 2015 and 2016. He stated that, overall, it was a good report. Copies were made for all Council members.

Mr. Bontreger welcomed public comment. There being no further business, Mr. Fritts made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County